

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGEForm Approved
OMB No. 0704-0188

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1. REPORT DATE (DD-MM-YYYY)

6 February 2003

2. REPORT TYPE

Technical Abstract

3. DATES COVERED (From - To)**4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE****An Automated Fluid-Structural Interaction Analysis of a Large Segmented Solid Rocket Motor****5a. CONTRACT NUMBER****5b. GRANT NUMBER****5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER****6. AUTHOR(S)**

Brian W. Rex, Qunzhen Wang, Daron Isaac

5d. PROJECT NUMBER

1011

5e. TASK NUMBER

00TN

5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER**7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)**ATK Thiokol Propulsion
Brigham City, Utah**8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER**

AFRL-PR-ED-AB-2003-034

9. SPONSORING / MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)Air Force Research Laboratory (AFMC)
AFRL/PRS
5 Pollux Drive
Edwards AFB CA 93524-7048**10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)****11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S NUMBER(S)**

AFRL-PR-ED-AB-2003-034

12. DISTRIBUTION / AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.

13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES**14. ABSTRACT**

20030320 043

15. SUBJECT TERMS**16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:****17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT****18. NUMBER OF PAGES****19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON**

Sheila Benner

a. REPORT

Unclassified

b. ABSTRACT

Unclassified

c. THIS PAGE

Unclassified

A

19b. TELEPHONE NUMBER(include area code)
(661) 275-5693

FILE

MEMORANDUM FOR PRS (Contractor Publication)

FROM: PROI (STINFO)

10 Feb 2003

SUBJECT: Authorization for Release of Technical Information, Control Number: **AFRL-PR-ED-AB-2003-034**
Brian W. Rex, Dr. Qunzhen Wang, and Daron Isaac (all ATK Thiokol Propulsion) "An Automated
Fluid-Structural Interaction Analysis of a Large Segmented Solid Rocket Motor" (abstract only)

AIAA/ASME/ASEE Joint Propulsion Conference
(Huntsville, AL, 20-23 Jul 2003) (Deadline: none listed)

(Statement A)

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An Automated Fluid-Structural Interaction Analysis of a Large Segmented Solid Rocket Motor

Brian W. Rex , Dr. Qunzhen Wang, and Daron Isaac

ATK Thiokol Propulsion
Brigham City, Utah

ABSTRACT

A new analysis procedure has been used to evaluate the propellant grain/flow stability of a new, five segment Space Shuttle solid rocket booster. The fluid-structural interaction (FSI) analysis of the ETM-3 motor used PYTHON, a powerful programming language, and FEM BUILDER, a pre- and post processor developed by ATK Thiokol Propulsion, to automatically couple the ABAQUS structural solver with FLUENT, the CFD solver. This iterative process automatically used the results of one solver as the inputs to the other solver until convergence to a solution was obtained.

The ETM-3 motor was basically an RSRM motor with an additional center segment added. The additional segment and greater nozzle diameter increased mass flow and mach number in the motor. Because of this harsher flow environment, it was necessary to conduct a detailed FSI analysis to ensure propellant grain stability against boot-strapping.

This paper details the FSI analysis work done for ETM-3. The analyses conducted and documented in this report assumed linear elastic material behavior and steady state fluid behavior without time response in either the structural or fluid models.

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